

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 003476

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ORIGIN NEA-03

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R 031920Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL KARACHI

UNCLAS STATE 003476

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT

QUOTE

R 072339Z JAN 75

FM. SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 003476

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S ANSWERS FOR LE POINT

COVER STORY

REF: PARIS 31097, PARIS 31195 (DECEMBER 1974); STATE 00848

FOLLOWING ARE THE ANSWERS SUPPLIED BY UNDER SECRETARY OF

STATE JOSEPH J. SISCO FOR LE POINT COVER STORY. COMPLETE

ANSWERS SHOULD BE USED AND NO CHANGES MADE IN THE TEXT.

1. TO JUDGE BY THE ALMOST DAILY WARNINGS OF THE ARABS AND

ISRAELIS, BOTH SIDES APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT A RESUMPTION

OF HOSTILITIES IS INEVITABLE. WOULD YOU COMMENT?

A. I CANNOT REALLY ACCEPT THE PREMISE OF YOUR QUESTION. I

DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES IS

INEVITABLE, NOR--AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT--DO I BELIEVE

THE PARTIES THEMSELVES CONSIDER A NEW WAR INEVITABLE.

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CERTAINLY THE SITUATION IS DANGEROUS AND HIGHLY COMPLICATED

--WE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THAT. BUT THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT HAVE INDICATED TO US THEIR WILLINGNESS FOR A NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ON STEPS TOWARD A POLITICAL SOLUTION, AND WE ARE ENGAGED NOW IN INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO THAT END. AS YOU KNOW, ISRAEL AND EGYPT, AND ISRAEL AND SYRIA HAVE RENEWED THE SIX-MONTH MANDATE FOR UNITED NATIONS FORCES ON THEIR RESPECTIVE FRONTS. SO WE REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT PROGRESS CAN BE MADE WHICH WOULD AVOID A RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES THAT WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR THE AREA AND THE WORLD AT LARGE.

2. IN WHAT RESPECTS DO YOU FEEL THE STEP-BY-STEP PEACE POLICY OF HENRY KISSINGER IS THE BEST IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES?

A. THE UNITED STATES HAS LONG BELIEVED THAT A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, TO BE LASTING, MUST BE FIRMLY BASED ON AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES THEMSELVES. THAT MEANS IT IS FUNDAMENTALLY FOR THOSE PARTIES TO NEGOTIATE THE TERMS. AFTER THE OCTOBER 1973 WAR, THE US JUDGEMENT WAS THAT THE BEST WAY TO BREAK THE STALEMATE AND CUT THROUGH THE DEEP HOSTILITY WAS FOR THE PARTIES TO MOVE TOWARD THAT SETTLEMENT A STEP AT A TIME. LEADERS ON BOTH SIDES ACCEPTED THAT APPROACH AND ASKED THE UNITED STATES TO HELP IN THE PROCESS. ITS AIM IS TO BUILD THE TRUST ESSENTIAL FOR A PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND EVENTUAL PEACE. WE HOPE THAT A SERIES OF AGREEMENTS WILL EACH HELP CREATE NEW CONDITIONS WHICH MAKE IT EASIER TO ARRIVE AT FURTHER AGREEMENTS AS THE PARTIES MOVE FROM THE LESS TO THE MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS. WE HAVE NEVER SAID THAT THIS IS THE ONLY POSSIBLE APPROACH. BUT WE DO SAY THAT THIS APPROACH HAS YIELDED THE FIRST REAL PROGRESS IN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY TOWARD RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT, AND GOOD PROSPECTS EXIST THAT IT CAN YIELD STILL MORE PROGRESS.

3. DO YOU BELIEVE IT TO BE NECESSARY, AS DO CERTAIN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY EXPERTS, THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD COMMIT ITSELF MORE OPENLY ON THE SIDE OF ISRAEL, FOR EXAMPLE, BY CONCLUDING A MUTUAL ASSISTANCE PACT WITH HER? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

A. THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL IS NOT IN QUESTION. IT HAS BEEN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DECLARED POLICY OF EVERY AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL, AND IS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND CONGRESS. OUR PRESENT FOCUS IS ON PROMOTING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES WHICH WILL PERMIT ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES TO LIVE IN PEACE. OUR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS ARE DIRECTED TO THAT END. IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHAT KIND OF OUTSIDE GUARANTEES--IF ANY--

MIGHT BUTTRESS SUCH A SETTLEMENT, SO I CANNOT SPECULATE
NOW ON THE KIND OF ARRANGEMENT YOUR QUESTION SUGGESTS.
KISSINGER. KISSINGER

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